

## The Frankfort Roundabout

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GEO. A. LEWIS, Pro'r and Pub.

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MORE ABOUT THE CANTEN QUESTION.

Fort Monroe, Va.,  
October 31, 1904.

Editor Roundabout:

There is so much discussion, both pro and con, regarding the question of selling beer in the army cantens, that a word from one who has served continuously in the artillery branch of the army since July 15, 1897, may not be amiss.

To begin with, the canteen, or more properly, the post exchange, is an authorized institution in the army, the regulations pertaining thereto stipulating what shall and what shall not be sold therefrom. Prior to 1901, the law provided that beer and light wines should be sold to soldiers, in addition to such other articles as may be needed, or desired by the men. By an act of Congress approved in 1901, the sale of beer, etc., by any person in any canteen, post exchange or army transport was prohibited. It was then the spirit of discontent arose among the enlisted personnel of the army. The increase in desertions and courts-martial being so marked, the question arose, where does the blame lie? Army officers in their reports to the War Department, with few exceptions, attributed it to the abolition of the beer feature of the canteen. The Inspector General of the army, with forty-three years active service; the Surgeon General, with forty years active service, in addition to Department Commanders from Manila to Porto Rico, reported that it was a most grievous mistake to curtail the soldier's privilege in this respect; that to do so was but to turn the soldier over to the tender care and mercies of the brothel, so common around the different army posts throughout the army.

Further than this, it is not necessary to go into detail of the reports in question; they speak for themselves, and any one who is sufficiently interested in such matters



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## Worry

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—Heart Pains.

Short of Breath,  
Faint and Languid.

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure and  
Nervine Cured Me.

"It has been five years since I was cured of heart trouble by your Heart Cure and Nervine, and I am just as sound as a dollar in that organ today. For several years I had been suffering with my heart. Breathing had become short and difficult at times, short, sharp pains about the heart, sometimes accompanied with fluttering would make me feel faint and languid. The least excitement or mental worry would almost unnerve me. I felt that the trouble was growing worse all the time, and after trying many remedies prescribed by physicians without obtaining relief, I was induced to give your remedies a trial. I was relieved the second day, and after taking three or four bottles all symptoms were removed and have never showed signs of returning."—REV. GEO. W. KIRSCOPE, Chincoteague, Va.

There are many symptoms of heart disease, which so closely resemble those of more common nervous disorders as to frequently mislead the attending physician. Often in cases of heart trouble the stomach, kidneys, liver or lungs become affected. Again the symptoms may be those of weakened nerves, as tired feeling, sleeplessness, timidity, the patient is easily excitable and apt to worry without cause. If you have the least suspicion that your heart is weak study your symptoms and begin the use of Dr. Miles' Heart Cure, the great heart and blood tonic, without a day's delay.

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can read these reports in full in current periodicals.

The question seems to be, shall the soldier be allowed to drink beer in moderate quantities under proper restriction, or shall he be required to satisfy himself in this respect in groceries, which, as stated, flourish in the vicinity of army posts throughout the United States, the Philippine Islands or wherever they may be?

Thus we are face to face with two propositions, both of which in a general way, have been stated, and I only wish that those who were instrumental in bringing about the abolition of the canteen could see both sides of it as it actually existed and does exist. Any unprejudiced person who has seen both propositions in operation, and then to declare for the latter, would, in my mind, be controlled by influences other than those having the best interests of the service at heart. Those in favor of the canteen as formerly existed will tell you that a most grievous mistake has been made, while those whose opinions are made up by their antipathy to the sale of liquor, under any circumstances, will tell you that it is a step in the right direction. Who is it that represents the true interests of the service, and who is the better prepared to say what is best for the service? I take it that the regular army officer is the better prepared to say what is best for the soldier, bearing in mind his long experience in studying the things that promote efficiency and discipline, and I hold that civilians who know little of the service, and especially those who care less, are ill prepared to say what would promote the morals of the army as a whole.

Suppose that a civilian at the head of a great manufacturing concern should conduct his business on the suggestions of people who know nothing whatever concerning it; does it stand to reason that he would be a successful business man? I hold not, and at a glance any one can readily see the value of the mass of gratuitous advice showered upon those responsible of the efficiency and discipline of the army.

And what of the moral side of this question? Is drink in any form a necessary evil? Evidently it is, or why do saloons exist in the city of Frankfort to-day? Why the subway tavern in the city of New York, so recently started on its career for good or evil with the blessing of Bishop Potter, one of the most celebrated Ecclesiasts in the United States? Does the revenue derived from the saloons in the city of Frankfort compensate for the evils that result from their existence? As to whether they do or not, it is for the people of Frankfort to decide, and not for some one who is in ignorance of your wants or wishes in the matter.

In 1897 the writer of this article was in camp with two companies of artillery at Chickamauga Park,

Ga. This was while beer was allowed to be sold in the canteen. Arriving at the park, the first thing in order after making camp was to construct a temporary building for a canteen, from which beer was sold. During a four months' stay in this camp there was not a single instance of a soldier being arrested by the civil authorities, and that too in view of the fact that the men had access to the saloons of Chattanooga, Tenn. In addition they could take a stroll over the hill near Lytle Station, Ga., and get all the moonshine whisky they desired, and that of the vilest sort. The men did not drink the moonshine, and were poor patrons of the saloon in Chattanooga. Why? Because their wants were happily supplied by the canteen. The county in Georgia in which Chickamauga Park is situated is prohibition, and some good old deacon, having in mind the welfare of this small command of soldiers in general, and his own pocket in particular, petitioned that the sale of beer in the canteen be stopped, while he sold wine in any quantities desired, and that too without license. Now who was the most interested in the welfare of this small command, the commanding officer, or the man who had the wine to sell? The question answers itself.

After this camp was broken, four months was spent at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, La. This reservation is lined on three sides with saloons, yet they got but little patronage from the post, and not a single instance of a soldier's arrest by the civil authorities. The next two years was spent at Galveston, Tex., Ardmore, I. T., and San Antonio, Tex., where the usual standard of discipline was maintained, during which time a desertion or a court-martial was an exceedingly rare occurrence.

Since June, 1900, I have served in the army at Fort Monroe, Va., where we have about nine hundred enlisted men, and as first Sergeant for the past three and a half years, I can truthfully say that, in my humble judgment, the law prohibiting the sale of beer in the canteen was a most lamentable error. While it is true that men got drunk occasionally when beer was sold in the canteen, as a rule a large majority of the offenses were of a minor character, and one punishment sufficed; while to-day a man to get a glass of beer has to resort to the vilest sort of groceries in the towns surrounding the reservation, with the result that a man who gets intoxicated to any extent is hauled up before a magistrate, an unjust fine imposed for the benefit of the municipality, only to return home to be brought to account for such infraction of military law as he may have transgressed.

The sale of liquor in the Indian Territory is prohibited by law, yet in the town of Ardmore a number of wild-cat saloons exist, or did exist in 1898, and such peace officers as the town afforded did not know of their existence, or did not care enough about them to bring the guilty persons to justice. Or, it might have been that their solicitude for the welfare of the soldiers then in camp near there was so great, that an ordinary infraction of law like selling liquor without license and to Indians, that it was impossible for them to think of other than the welfare of the soldiers during their short stay in their midst. Again at Chickamauga Park, Ga., where moonshiners openly peddled their wares, we find the vigilance of the law-abiding citizens relaxed to the extent that these violators of the law are not molested. If the sons of these good people are capable of carrying the thrusts of this deadly moonshine, they are just a little out of the run of ordinary human beings, for you must understand that Georgia moonshine is not made up like the original Kentucky article, crude kerosene becoming a delicious beverage when compared to it.

I merely mention these instances of people butting in on propositions that is of no particular concern to them, in order that you may see the origin of most of the objections raised in the past to the sale of beer in the army canteen. To those good people who were opposed to this feature of army life, I can only say that their investigations evidently did not lead them to the places that the result of their actions lead the soldier, and had it done so I believe that those who to-day are opposed to this feature of army life would now be its advocates.

As a rule a soldier cares but little how the average municipality is run, or how the average man conducts his business. If being none of his concern, he has no suggestions to make to those in power. He only asks that he be let alone to enjoy himself during his few leisure hours as he sees fit, and I submit that those whom the discipline of the army is entrusted are far more competent to judge of its needs, than are those who are not interested in its welfare, or are totally ignorant of its requirements.

Yours,  
X. X. X.

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